

## In This Issue

December 22, 2016

- MDE Releases Second Round of Surveys to Gather ESSA Feedback ..... 1
- Feedback Forums Engage Educators, Other Stakeholders ..... 2
- New Federal Resources to Help States and School Districts Improve Testing ..... 3
- What's Happening Now ..... 4
- Questions from the Field ..... 4

## MDE Releases Second Round of Surveys to Gather ESSA Feedback

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has opened a second round of surveys for individuals interested in providing feedback on the development of the state's plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This set of surveys seeks comments on the draft recommendations of the Action Teams that the MDE has convened to review specific focus areas within the state plan and the federal law.

Now through January 16, 2017, education stakeholders can choose from four feedback options on the [ESSA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/essa) ([www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)) under the **Get Involved** tab.

### Option 1 – Detailed surveys for Feedback Forum attendees/viewers

Individuals who have attended or viewed a recent Feedback Forum hosted by the MDE are invited to respond to a set of detailed surveys that ask questions related to the information presented at those events. A recorded Feedback Forum is available on [MI Streamnet](http://mistreamnet.org/) (<http://mistreamnet.org/>). Individuals who DID NOT attend or view a forum can still choose to complete this version. However, before completing this detailed survey, we recommend participants watch the related video presentations that provide background information for each question.

Links to the videos and surveys are on the following page, or you can access the surveys by going to the [ESSA web page](http://www.michigan.gov/essa) ([www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)) and clicking on **Get Involved**.

Continued on next page

## ESSA FACTS.....

State plans must describe how low-income and minority children are not served disproportionately by ineffective and out-of-field or inexperienced teachers.

Contact Us: [MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov) or [www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)

## Welcome and Introduction

[Video](#) (Background only; no related survey)

### 1. Support to Students and Schools

[Video](#)      [Survey](#)

### 2. Teacher and Leader Quality

[Video](#)      [Survey](#)

### 3. Accountability

[Video](#)      [Survey](#)

### 4. Assessment

[Video](#)      [Survey](#)

### 5. Supports to Special Populations

[Video](#)      [Survey](#)

## Option 2 – [Open Public Survey](#)

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSA-short>)

Individuals who did not attend a forum and do not wish to view the videos can participate in a more streamlined survey. As in the detailed surveys above, participants will be able to provide feedback on all five Action Team recommendations, but answers will not require knowledge of the details provided through the Forums.

## Option 3 – [Comment portal](#)

([https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSA\\_Comment](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ESSA_Comment))

For those who wish to submit open-text comments or feedback on any aspect of the state's ESSA plan.

## Option 4 – Email inquiries or ideas directly to [MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov](mailto:MDE-ESSA@michigan.gov)

The MDE will seek additional input and feedback on the final ESSA plan in early 2017, before it is finalized. [Sign up for ESSA Updates](#) to be sure you're informed of future opportunities to give feedback on Michigan's ESSA plan.

For more information about MDE's ESSA plan development process, please visit the [ESSA Website](#) ([www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)).

## Feedback Forums Engage Educators, Other Stakeholders

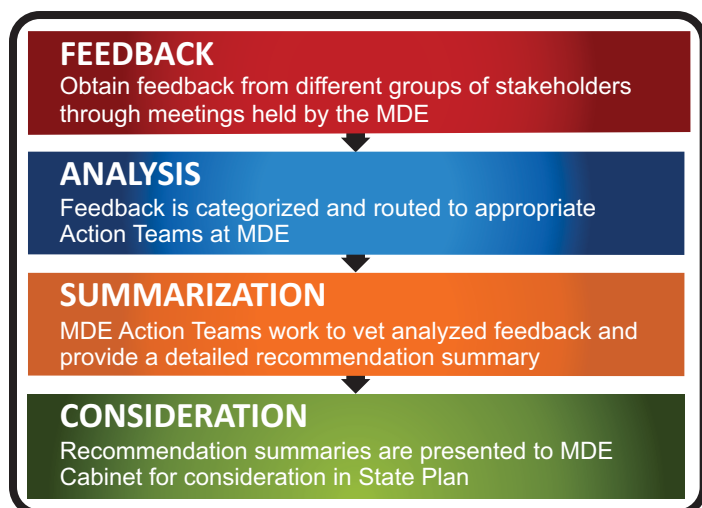
The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) wrapped up its series of ESSA Feedback Forums on December 19, 2016, with a two-hour event at the Jackson Intermediate School District. The Forums offered educators, parents, and the public the opportunity to learn about specific components being considered for Michigan's ESSA Plan. The Forums featured presentations and dialogue around federally-funded programs for students, equitable access to high quality teachers and leaders, assessments, and accountability.

More than 500 individuals attended forums held in seven intermediate school districts (ISDs) around the state. Others tuned into a live-streamed event at Wayne RESA or have viewed the recording available on [MI Streamnet](#) (<http://mistreamnet.org/>). Participants represented various stakeholder groups, including parents, policy-makers, community members, arts advocates, teachers, principals, central office administrators, and others interested in improving Michigan's education system.

The feedback gathered during the Forums will inform the final ESSA plan, which will guide how Michigan leverages federal funding to make Michigan a top 10 education state

Continued on next page

within the next 10 years. Forum participants, as well as the general public, can also provide additional feedback through a set of newly released surveys (see article on [page 1](#)). Additional input will come from focus groups held with a variety of targeted stakeholder groups during early 2017.



MDE officials will incorporate all feedback submitted into the final draft ESSA Plan, which is expected to be released for a third round of public comment in early 2017. Michigan’s final plan is expected to be submitted to US Department of Education in April 2017.

Visit the [ESSA Get Involved page](#) to participate in a survey or inquire about other feedback opportunities available to you or your organization.

## New Federal Resources to Help States and School Districts Improve Testing

The White House and the US Department of Education (ED) have announced new efforts designed to help states and school districts improve their assessments and help them evaluate the totality of their assessments in order to eliminate unnecessary or low-quality tests. The

announcement was made during a December 7, 2016 event that gathered together state and district leaders, educators, parents, technologists, developers, and philanthropic leaders to discuss the impact of President Barack Obama’s Testing Action Plan and what more can be done to ensure that tests are better, fairer, and fewer.

New resources include:

- **\$8 Million in grants to make tests better:** The ED announced nearly \$8 million in funding to the Maryland State Department of Education and the Nebraska Department of Education through its [Enhanced Assessment Instruments Competitive Grant Program \(EAG\)](#). The two projects funded this year support the work of two consortia that represent eight states to develop high-quality science assessments.
- **Regulations to create better, fairer, and fewer assessments under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA):** [The ED released two final regulations](#) designed to give states and school districts clarity and flexibility as they implement the assessment provisions under Title I of the ESSA. These regulations seek to clarify the statutory requirement that states administer high-quality, annual assessments to all students by ensuring that these assessments are worth taking and provide meaningful data about student success and equity for all students. The regulations also encourage states and districts to continue to push the field of assessment forward through innovation.
- **Guidance to states on how to use federal resources to create better, fairer, and fewer tests:** [The ED also released non-regulatory guidance for states and school districts](#) that highlights flexibility in ESSA for how states and districts can use federal funds to support the President’s Testing Action Plan. This ESSA guidance applies starting in the 2017–2018 school year and updates previous guidance ED released earlier this year.

[Continued on next page](#)

- **Profiles of districts that are taking action to improve assessments:** The ED released profiles highlighting the steps taken by two districts, [Eminence Independent Schools \(KY\)](#) and [Vancouver Public Schools \(WA\)](#), to reduce and improve assessments. These profiles build on [a report](#) the Department released in April, highlighting the work of leading states and districts to improve assessment and ensure class time is preserved.
- **Information on technology-delivered assessments supported by the Institute of Education Sciences:** The Institute for Education Sciences (IES) released a [blog that highlights some of the technology-delivered assessments funded through IES](#). Later this month, IES will release a more detailed report highlighting the technology-delivered assessments and innovations in the assessment field funded through three research programs.

[Subscribe to the ESSA Notes Newsletter!](#)

View [archived newsletters](#) by going to the [ESSA web page](#) ([www.michigan.gov/essa](http://www.michigan.gov/essa)) and clicking on **ESSA Notes**.

## Questions from the Field . . . . .

**Am I right in my understanding that the proposed accountability system will allow schools to earn a range of points (0-100) for each criteria versus the all-or-none model being used currently?**

Yes, under the state’s current proposal for accountability, a school would get partial credit for getting close to a target and will get proportional credit for what is achieved.

**ESSA often uses the acronym “LEA.” What does “LEA” mean?**

“LEA” stands for Local Education Agency. In Michigan, this typically can describe a local public school district, an intermediate school district, or public school academy. An “SEA” is a State Education Agency such as Michigan Department of Education.

## What's Happening Now . . . . .

- A set of Michigan’s draft ESSA recommendations are now out for stakeholder comments via several survey options, found on the ESSA Get Involved page. The MDE will accept feedback for this round through Monday, January 16, 2017.
- MDE staff continue to monitor the conversations being held in Washington D.C. as the nation transitions to a new administration and Congress. Rules and regulations regarding ESSA implementation remain uncertain until we see how our newly elected federal leaders will move forward in early 2017.